

Energy and Environmental Quarterly

U.S. Department of Commerce; Office of Facilities and Environmental Quality; Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs
Volume 6, Issue 2

New Sustainability Scorecard Shows Significant Improvements in FY14

On June 10, 2015, the President's Council on Environmental Quality released federal agency Sustainability Scorecards evaluating the progress towards fiscal year 2014's sustainability goals. The Department of Commerce (DOC) Sustainability Scorecard was mostly green, reflecting hard work by all.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) grades these scorecards using a color coded system – red, yellow, and green – to evaluate the Department of Commerce and other federal agencies in the areas of greenhouse gases, energy intensity, renewable energy, potable water intensity, fleet petroleum use, and sustainable building construction and renovation. The Scorecard helps the departments track and meet specific sustainability goals. OMB reviews each agency, assessing reductions or increases in performance. This assessment gives OMB great insight into each federal agency's performance.

DOC's results show great improvements in the areas of renewable energy and energy intensity, scoring greens in both areas. In FY14, all bureaus purchased renewable energy credits (RECs) based on their share of the goal. Efforts against the energy intensity goal were successful, mainly due to NOAA more inclusively accounting for all reportable facilities.

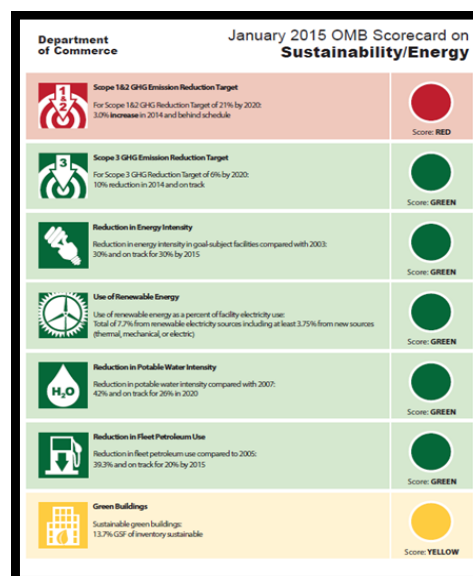
DOC also scored green again this year in the areas of water intensity and fleet petroleum use, already exceeding the long term goals in both areas, a 41% reduction from baseline. There is still work to be done in the areas of scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gases (emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by a federal

agency and direct greenhouse emissions from the generation of electricity, heat, or steam purchased by a federal agency) where DOC moved from yellow to red, increasing emissions by 5% from last year. This is due to increased energy use and a penalty for use of municipal solid waste and biomass renewable energy certificates. A pending 2008 baseline adjustment is anticipated to get DOC back on track to meet its goal. In the area of scope 3 greenhouse gases (emissions from sources not owned or controlled by a federal agency but related to agency activities such as delivery services and employee travel and commuting) DOC showed exceptional progress, decreasing 8.9% from the baseline and already exceeding the FY 2020 goal of a 6% reduction. This results from decreases in business travel and increases in telework. One sustainable building was added to the DOC portfolio in FY14 and five are planned to be added in FY15. This reflected positive movement towards our target resulting in a score of yellow.

Further information on the OMB Sustainability Scorecard is available on the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Programs website: http://www.osec.doc.gov/ofeq/OSEEP/Annual_Rpts_Scrsdrs.html

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Sustainable Coffee



Coffee berry borer on seed

If you share a craving for a nice cup of coffee, yet want to ensure that your coffee comes from an environmentally responsible source, there are a few things you can look for during your next grocery run. You may already be aware that traditional coffee growing methods pose a significant threat to the environment in several ways. According to the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#), in many countries, tropical rain forest ecosystems have disappeared or are on the path to devastation in support of expanding coffee farming. In under-regulated countries, intensive pesticides are often used, placing farmers at risk of exposure to serious health problems. The increased use of nitrogen fertilizers has contributed to the environmental contamination of ground water and

drinking water aquifers. Coffee bean processing plants generate tons of waste each day as they separate the beans from the coffee cherries.

The way coffee is grown and processed has profound environmental importance both locally and internationally. Sustainable coffee is coffee that is grown in a sus-



tainable manner, meaning that the growing and manufacturing processes address and mitigate negative impacts to the environment. Coffee has a number of classifications used to determine the participation of growers (or the supply chain) in various combinations of social, environmental, and economic standards. Coffees fitting such categories and that are independently certified or verified by an accredited third party have been collectively termed "sustainable

coffees." Several innovative and forward thinking non-profit organizations have developed and implemented programs that include certification processes and education, awareness and outreach.

At the grocery store, you can look for labels that convey that sustainable standards and practices were employed in the farming, manufacturing, and/or supply chain components of the process of getting coffee products on the shelf, including [Fair Trade](#), [Shade-grown](#), [UTZ](#), and [Rainforest Alliance](#). Each label is unique, but helps you understand and appreciate that there are organizations out there that want to help you drink a great cup of coffee that hasn't contributed to the destruction of our environment or its precious resources.



Earth Day 2015 at the Herbert C. Hoover Building



Earth Day 2015 and the Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards



The annual worldwide Earth Day celebration brings together millions of people to share ideas that promote energy efficiency and sustainable practices that increase environmental stewardship, conservation, and awareness.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has provided an avenue of access and exploration for employees and green organizations to accomplish these tasks. This year, DOC's 8th annual Earth Day celebration, held in the Great Hall of the Herbert C. Hoover Building on April 22, 2015, served as a platform to facilitate active discussions and educational initiatives by displaying and explaining green and energy efficient products, services, and programs that address on-going concerns about the environment. In addition, the department organized activities to encourage and inspire the children of the Commerce Child Development Center to learn about plants and their significance in a healthier environment. These activities seek to foster environment stewardship in our future generations.

As concerns about the environment keep growing and have become a priority on global agendas, bureaus within the Department have found innovative ways to reduce their carbon footprint

and improve their work environment.

To acknowledge the achievements and efforts of these teams, the Office of Facilities and Environmental Quality sponsored the 8th annual Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards on Earth Day. The ceremony recognizes the contributions of the employees across multiple DOC bureaus that promote energy efficiency, environmental stewardship, and increase our quality of life.

This year, 13 awards were presented in the categories of Building the Future; Energy and Water Management; Good Neighbor; Green Innovation; Recycling; and Renewable Energy.

Ellen Herbst, the Department's Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration and Mr. Frederick E. Stephens, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Senior Sustainability Officer, served as the awarding officials who recognized the creative initiatives demonstrated by this year's award recipients.



The commitment, resourcefulness, and initiative displayed by employees at all levels of the organization continue to make a significant impact for the Department. Kudos to all that continue to look for ways to improve their operations and mission through increased environmental stewardship.



Award winners from top to bottom: Awardees flanked by Ellen Herbst, the Department's Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration and Mr. Frederick E. Stephens, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration and Senior Sustainability Officer.

Good Neighbor Award-Shirley Kelly of the Economic Development Agency (EDA) accepting on behalf of EDA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Energy and Water Management Award-Gordon Garcia accepting for the team at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Ted Stevens Marine Research Facilities Team.

Recycling-Thomas Sherman, Vincent Biller III, Mathew Aulbach, and Paula Thompson.

The United States Department of Commerce's Energy and Environmental Stewardship Awards 2015

In the category of: Building the Future

Winner: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Weather Service; National Water Center Project Team

For using an integrated project team in the design and construction of the National Water Center building such that it exceeded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards for energy and water efficiency and waste diversion.

In the category of: Energy and Water Management

Winner: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Marine Fisheries Service; Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute Facilities Team

For implementing an Ozone Depuration Cooling Water Recirculation project that improved their waste treatment process and reduced potable water consumption by 1.5 million gallons annually.

Runner-up: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Office of Marine and Aviation Operations; Marine Operations Center Pacific Islands

For achieving a 41% reduction in energy consumption by modifying procedures for ships tied up alongside while in homeport.

In the category of: Good Neighbor

Winner: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Economic Development Administration

For developing and coordinating a series of community workshops on climate change preparedness to prepare the nation for the impacts of climate change.

In the category of: Green Innovation

Winner: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Weather Service; Weather Forecast Office Central Illinois

For achieving a 50% energy reduction through a heat reduction project at the Weather Forecast Office Central Illinois.

Runner-up: United States Patent and Trademark Office; Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Office of Administrative Services

For pursuing and participating in a demand reduction program opportunity through a PJM grid service provider which resulted in a \$180,000 annual credit to their electric bill.

In the category of: Recycling

Winner: United States Census Bureau; National Processing Center

For an aggressive campaign to creatively recycle wastepaper, cardboard and other recyclable materials that generated over \$19,000 in revenue.

Runner-up: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Inouye Regional Center Green Team

For implementing an aggressive recycling program at the Inouye Regional Center that reduced the waste stream by approximately 11 tons.

In the category of: Renewable Energy

Winner: Mr. Tom Abbas; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Marine Fisheries Service

For implementing a hydro-electric turbine application at a remote site in Alaska that reduced fuel consumption by 40% generating \$15,000 in annual cost savings.

Meet A DOC Sustainability Community Member: Aida Roxas



Aida Roxas is one of the Department of Commerce's newest sustainability team members working to make a difference in our sustainability efforts. Aida works in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration's (NOAA) Safety and Environmental Compliance Office at their headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her primary responsibility is to aid in the determination and execution of energy and sustainability projects in line with current regulations and executive orders.

She joins the Department after having served four years in the United States Navy, primarily as training coordinator for her squadron. Aida's areas of expertise include data analysis and critical thinking.

At NOAA, her duties include assisting in executing energy and sustainability projects as well as analyzing and reporting NOAA's progress against sustainability goals. She also assists in the preparation of NOAA's Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan, generates calculations for their greenhouse gas reporting, provides specialized aid to NOAA's Line Offices, and offers recommendations for agency-

wide performance improvements.

Aida hopes to make a difference at NOAA. "At the end of the day, I need to realize that my time and endeavors have been justified, and amount to a positive result. I am extremely passionate about the things I do and I think we, globally, are at a very critical crossroads for what's to come."

Aida moved to the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area to take her position at NOAA from San Francisco, and is enjoying weekend trips exploring the mid-Atlantic region with her family. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines, and holds "engineer in Training" and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certifications. Aida is currently working to complete her diploma in Green House Gases Measurement, Verification, and Reporting from the GHG Management Institute.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office opens their own Green Store at the Alexandria Campus



One of the strongest attributes of the Green Store at the Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB) is that it was an employee idea generated through the HCHB Green Team. The idea was the result of a few employees making observations that too many things were ending up in the waste stream, yet were often still useable. Given the success of the Green Store, it is easy to now look back on it and think, "Why didn't we do this sooner?"

The model works, and the best thing about it is that it is replicable. With that in mind,

the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) created their own version of the Green Store at their Alexandria campus. USPTO calls their store the "Office Supply Exchange." A dedicated space was established on July 30, 2014 to stock a wide range of surplus office supplies. The title of the store reflects USPTO's desire to re-use excess office supplies that already exist throughout the campus, thereby minimizing office supply costs for everyone. Through April 2015, the USPTO Office Supply Exchange has issued 2,270 office supplies to 373 personnel, resulting in \$20,949 in cost savings.

We commend the initiative and creativity of USPTO and wish them continued success as they now serve as a role model for other campuses throughout the Department.

If you want to establish a Green Store within your campus or building, and need

help with your ideas, we want to help you. Contact us at gogreen@doc.gov and we'll help you get started!



Left to right at the Grand Opening: Fred Steckler, Chief Administrative Officer; Janet Kerrick (retired), Office of Administrative Services; John Hassett, Senior Advisor, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.



Detox Your Home

We know that many of the products we use to clean our homes are chemically harsh, toxic, or hazardous. These cleaners can contribute to indoor air pollution, are poisonous if ingested, and can be harmful if inhaled or touched. To help people reduce the number of toxic chemicals in your home, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recently unveiled a new Safer Choice label, as part of its Safer Product Labeling Program, to make it easier for the public to find household cleaners and other products that are as effective, safe, and environmentally friendly.

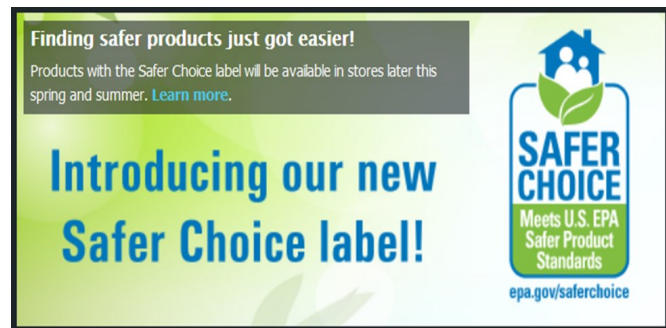
To learn more about the program and see a list of these alternative products ranging from all purpose cleaners to carpet cleaners, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/saferchoice>

Aside from using greener household products, there are other steps you can take to ensure your home is not only happy but also healthy!

- Don't smoke in your house.
- Use natural solutions instead of chemicals for cleaning.
- Have your house tested for lead paint.
- Use a range hood with an exhaust vent that leads to the outside.
- Open your windows and doors to let the fresh air inside.

- Properly vent your bathroom to prevent mold and mildew from developing.
- Change your furnace filter regularly.
- Check your furnace for carbon monoxide leaks.
- Clean the air ducts and vents to reduce pollen and airborne allergens.
- Contact your local sanitation department to dispose of old paints and cleaning products.
- Clean your chimney annually to reduce the chances of carbon monoxide exposure.

If you have any questions or comments on detoxing your home, please contact the Office of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Programs (OSEEP) at gogreen@doc.gov.



We Want Your Articles in the E&E

If you are a Department of Commerce employee and you would like to contribute an article to this newsletter, please forward your article and contact information to gogreen@doc.gov.



The 2015 Energy Exchange Phoenix, Arizona - August 11-13

Providing training to energy managers and sustainability professionals, who are working to improve facility performance, advance the use of renewable energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at federal sites.

Registration Link: <http://energy.gov/eere/femp/energy-exchange-payment-information-and-cancellation-policy>



Contact Anne Phillips or 678-398-2650 for any registration questions.



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